

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 10 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 6 and 7 were amended, and claims 5, 8, 9 and 11-21 were canceled. No claims were added. This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner so find.

I. Objection to Claims

The Examiner has stated that claims 5-7, 9, 15-17 and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 1 was amended to incorporate the subject matter of both allowable claims 5 and 9 in an alternative form, and should now be allowed. In addition, claims 6 and 7 were amended to depend from claim 1, and claims 5, 8, 9 and 11-21 were canceled.

Claims 2-4, 6, 7 and 10 depend from and further restrict amended claim 1, and should now also be allowed.

II. Conclusion

Applicants have amended claims 1, 6 and 7 and have canceled claims 5, 8, 9 and 11-21 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional applications.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: November 19, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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